

Thursday, June 5, 2008

House Meets At...	Votes Predicted At...
9:30 a.m. For Legislative Business	Last Vote: 2:00-3:00 p.m.
Ten "One-minutes" Per Side	

Any anticipated Member absences for votes this week should be reported to the Office of the Majority Whip at 226-3210.

Floor Schedule and Procedure

- **H. Res. 1233–Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5540 – Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Continuing Authorization Act (Rep. Arcuri-Rules):** The structured rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. The rule makes in order only the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report if offered by Rep. Bishop of Utah or his designee. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rep. Arcuri, and consideration will proceed as follows:
 - One hour of debate on the rule.
 - Possible vote on a Democratic Motion ordering the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes.**
 - Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes.**
- **Conference Report to accompany S.Con.Res. 70 - Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for FY 2009 (Rep. Spratt-Budget):** Debate on the Conference Report will be managed by Budget Committee Chair Rep. John Spratt, and will proceed as follows:
 - One hour of debate on the Conference Report.
 - Vote on Adoption of the Conference Report. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on adopting the Conference Report.**
- **Postponed Suspension Votes (2 Bills):**
 - 1) **H.R. 5940** - National Nanotechnology Initiative Amendments Act of 2008 (Rep. Gordon - Science and Technology)
 - 2) **H.R. 3058** - Public Land Communities Transition Act of 2007 (Rep. DeFazio – Natural Resources)

- **H.R. 5540 – Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Continuing Authorization Act (Rep. Sarbanes-Natural Resources):**
Pursuant to the rule, debate on the bill will be managed by Natural Resources Committee Chair Rep. Nick Rahall, or his designee, and will proceed as follows:
 - One hour of debate on the bill.
 - Debate and votes on amendments to the bill.
 - Possible debate and vote on a Republican Motion to Recommit the bill.
 - Vote on passage of the bill.

Bill Summary and Key Issues

H.R. 5540 - CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS AND WATERTRAILS NETWORK CONTINUING AUTHORIZATION ACT *(Rep. Sarbanes – Natural Resources)*

H.R. 5540, introduced by Representative John Sarbanes on March 5, 2008, would reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network, which is set to expire at the end of this fiscal year.

The Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network was established in 1998 (Title V of P.L. 105-312) to identify, conserve, restore, and interpret the natural, historical, cultural, and recreational resources within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. In the ten years since its creation, the Network has grown to include 156 gateway sites over 64,000 square miles – including parks, wildlife refuges, historic communities, maritime museums and waterways – in six states and the District of Columbia, with over 1,500 miles of established and developing water trails.

Over 10 million visitors a year explore the Chesapeake through these sites. According to the National Park Service, the system is a key element in the overall Bay restoration effort involving Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Washington D.C. and the federal government.

Matching grants from the program have gone to communities, non-profit organizations and other groups throughout the watershed for projects including over 1500 miles of new water trails with access points to the Bay such as kayak and canoe launches, wildlife observation boardwalks, interpretive signs, exhibits and kiosks. Other projects that have enhanced people's connection to the Bay have included activities related to the Jamestown 400 celebration.

P.L. 105-312 authorized \$3 million for fiscal years 1999 through 2003; in 2002, Congress reauthorized the program through 2008 (P.L. 107-308). H.R. 5540 would provide a permanent authorization for the program.

Anticipated Amendments to H.R. 5540

1. Bishop (UT): Would change the bill's permanent authorization of appropriations to an authorization for five years. (20 minutes)

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. CON. RES. 70- THE CONCURRENT BUDGET RESOLUTION FOR 2009 *(Rep. Spratt – Budget)*

A Fiscally Responsible Budget that Funds Critical Priorities

Fiscal Responsibility

- Reaches balance in 2012 and remains in balance in 2013 using realistic CBO estimates
- Posts smaller deficits than the President's in 2009 and over the 5 years 2009 to 2013
- Continues House emphasis on fiscal discipline by following pay-as-you-go rule
- Includes program integrity funding to root out wasteful spending

Discretionary Funding Highlights

- Substantially increases veterans' funding above current services
- Invests in renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives
- Includes increased funding for natural resources and environment programs, including a variety of programs at the EPA; and provides funding for green collar jobs
- Boosts funding to make college more affordable, improve student achievement, and reverse the Bush Administration's underfunding of education. Includes significant increases over the President's budget in discretionary funding for the Department of Education and Head Start in 2009.
- Takes important steps to strengthen the safety net for those families most in need, including boosting funding for home energy assistance (LIHEAP) to help millions of low-income families and funding housing assistance for low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled
- Provides additional resources to address other long-standing domestic priorities within a fiscally responsible framework, including increased funding for scientific innovation
- Rejects the Administration's proposed cuts to other priorities, including first responders, Community Development Block Grants, and other high-priority services
- Funds defense, while targeting resources toward our most pressing security needs

Mandatory Programs

- Accommodates initiatives including the following:
- expansion of children's health insurance coverage
- reforms to improve Medicare for beneficiaries and protect access to care
- creation of an affordable housing fund
- reforms of the Higher Education Act to make college more affordable and accessible
- Rejects Administration cuts to Medicare and Medicaid

Revenues

- Accommodates immediate and long-term AMT fix, consistent with pay-as-you-go
- Accommodates additional middle-class tax relief and enhanced economic equity through tax policies, consistent with pay-as-you-go

Scope of the budget resolution

- Establishes a framework to guide budgetary decisions for the year
- Leaves specific spending, revenue initiatives, and offset decisions to authorizing and appropriations committees

Quote of the Day

"It is better to die on your feet than to live on your knees." -Dolores Ibarruri

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